

ARE GLASSES AND MEDICINE SIAMESE TWINS?

Doctors Declare That Optometrists Should
be Doctors, But Opticians Reply That
Glass Fitting is "Just Mathematics."

A bill providing for the registration of all optometrists with the clerk of the superior court in the counties in which they intend to practice, and for the establishment of a state board of examiners in optometry, who shall issue certificates to optometrists, which shall be registered and hung in a conspicuous place in the offices of the practitioners, was taken up before the committee on public health and safety yesterday afternoon. The bill provides that all applicants must have had two years of study in the office of some optometrist or have taken a course in some school of optometry of recognized standing. A fee of \$15 is to be charged, \$10 for examination and \$5 for the certificate of registration. Optometrists who have been practicing in the state for two years previous to the passage of the bill would be exempt from the examination and would get a certificate upon payment of fee.

W. S. Todd of Hartford, an optometrist, said that already twenty-two states in the Union and one province in Canada had this law and that if it was not passed by Connecticut, the state would be flooded by fakirs, who have been driven out from neighboring states. He said that medicine had absolutely nothing to do with optometry.

C. M. Parker of New Haven, a practicing optician, said that public health and safety demanded the passage of the bill. He cited several instances of fakirs. In speaking of optometry he said that it was not as closely allied to medicine as dentistry, simply being a practice of mathematics.

Dr. E. J. McKnight of Hartford in opposition said that it was true that a number of states had passed this bill, but that it was very easily seen how this was done. Alluding to two petitions signed by physicians presented by the optometrists, he said that the physicians never have signed the petition if they had looked into the matter. He said that in spite of what had been said to the contrary optometry did have a good deal to do with medicine. "We claim that no man can properly treat the eyes unless he has a thorough knowledge of medicine," he said.

Dr. H. W. Ring of New Haven said that more glasses were fitted by opticians than by oculists because people went to the optician looking for a bargain. If they prefer inferior treatment let them have it. He objected to the bill on the grounds that it gave the sanction of the state to inferior opticians or optometrists as well as to good ones, and that the public had no way of knowing which was which except by practical experience, which was often detrimental.

Professor Yandel Henderson of the Yale Medical School said that the man who practiced optometry should have a broad training in medicine, as the eyes were intimately connected with the organs of the body, particularly the kidneys, and that often the first symptoms of disease was found in eye trouble.

GOVERNOR DRAPEAU RECEIVES DAUGHTERS
(Special from United Press.)
Boston, May 14.—About 50 Daughters of the Revolution, delegates to the National Convention here, called on Governor Drapeau to-day and the Governor held a brief reception in the executive chamber. The Governor was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Helen Hodges, ex-treasurer general of the National Association of the Daughters.

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HEINZE RE-INDICTED BY GRAND JURY

(Special from United Press.)
New York, May 14.—F. Augustus Heinze was re-indicted to-day by the Federal Grand Jury on allegations of misappropriating the funds of the Mercantile National Bank. The text of the indictment was withheld by direction of the court but it is much more voluminous than the original indictment in this connection and specifies certain alleged offenses against the National Banking Law.

Heinze was in court and promptly entered a plea of not guilty. His bond of \$50,000 was given and he was arrested on the original charge which was continued.

Read Kline Brothers' Announcement on page 3.

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